Promotion of Organic Farming

*72. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken for promoting organic farming by safeguarding chemical poisoning of food and water in the country and making agricultural activity more eco-friendly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): To safeguard against ill-effects due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, the Government propagates Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), which includes soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers.The Government also promotes organic farming by advocating enhanced use of organic source nutrients like farm yard manure, compost, green manure, vermi-compost and bio-fertilizers.

The Government promotes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which aims at controlling pests by employing all available alternate pest control methods and techniques such as cultural, mechanical and biological control with emphasis on use of bio-pesticides and pesticides of plant origin like neem formulation.

In addition, with a view to provide focussed thrust to the promotion of organic farming in the country a "National Institute of Organic Farming (NIOF)", is to be set up during Xth Plan under the proposed "National Project on Organic Farming" with an outlay of approximately Rs. 99.58 crores. The Institute would ensure promotion, production, market development and regulation of organic agriculture in the country.

Suggestions for reviewing the Dowry Prohibition Act

*73. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions from various women organisations for reviewing the Dowry Prohibition Act to make its provisions more stringent and effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and